

March 16, 1999

TO: Members of the MAG Regional Council

FROM: Mayor Neil G. Giuliano, Tempe, Chairman

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room

302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

MAG Office, Suite 300

Please park in the garage under the Norwest Bank Building. Parking places will be reserved for Regional Council members on the first and second levels of the garage. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

The next Regional Council meeting will be held at the MAG offices at the time and place noted above. Members who wish to remove any items from the Consent Agenda are requested to contact the MAG office. MAG will host a progressive dinner/reception for the Regional Council members following the meeting in the MAG offices on the 3rd floor. Supporting information is enclosed for your review.

If you have any questions, please call the MAG office.

MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL
TENTATIVE AGENDA
March 24, 1999

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

1. <u>Call to Order</u>	
2. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	
3. <u>Approval of February 24, 1999 Meeting Minutes</u>	3. Review and approve February 24, 1999 meeting minutes.
4. <u>Call to the Audience</u> An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Regional Council for items that are not included on the agenda. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Regional Council requests an exception to this limit.	4. For information.
5. <u>Executive Director's Report</u> The MAG Executive Director will provide a report to the Regional Council on activities of general interest.	5. For information and discussion.
6. <u>Approval of Consent Agenda</u> Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Council members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk.	6. For information, discussion and approval of the Consent Agenda.

* ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT

TRANSPORTATION ITEM

*7. <u>Administrative Adjustment to the FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program</u> The FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was approved by the Regional Council in September 1998. It is	7. For information, discussion and approval of the transit administrative adjustment to the FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program.
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necessary to revise the FY 1999 element of the Transit portion of the TIP to accelerate 9 projects, revise 10 projects and defer 6 projects. The 9 accelerated projects are a result of additional funding opportunities within the FY 1999 Federal Transportation Appropriations Bill. These changes are not expected to affect the MAG air quality conformity analysis. The Management Committee recommended approval of the administrative adjustment. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*8A. Long Range Transit Plan Update

The Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) has completed an update of the Long Range Transit Plan for the region. The Long Range Transit Plan is developed to articulate a vision for the future of public transportation in the region. The Plan's horizon is a 20 year period. Near term issues and specific projects are addressed in the Short Range Transit Plan, which covers a period five years into the future. Both documents are prepared by the RPTA for inclusion into the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. The Plan update includes a fixed guideway system and major expansions of local, express and Dial-A-Ride bus services. The Management Committee recommended approval of the Long Range Transit Plan for inclusion into the Draft Long Range Transportation Plan. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*8B. 1999 Update of MAG Regional Bicycle Plan

The MAG Regional Bicycle Plan was adopted by the Regional Council in February, 1992. In October, 1997, the Regional Bicycle Task Force (RBTF) initiated discussion of methods to update the MAG Regional Bicycle Plan. After extensive discussion and review, the RBTF focused on three critical tasks. The RBTF decided to address other planning tasks as part of an ongoing regional bicycle planning process. The 1999 Update of the MAG Regional Bicycle Plan addresses these critical planning tasks. The Update revises goals and objectives, changes evaluation criteria for project selection, enhances plan maps, updates the funding plan, and documents possible future planning activities. The Management Committee recommended including the Update of the

8A. For information, discussion and approval of including the 1999 Update of the Long Range Transit Plan into the Draft 1999 Update of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan for conformity analysis.

8B. For information, discussion and approval to include the 1999 Update of the MAG Regional Bicycle Plan into the 1999 Update of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan for conformity analysis.

Regional Bicycle Plan into the Long Range Transportation Plan. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*9. Consultant Selection for MAG External Travel Study

The FY 1999 MAG Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) includes a \$150,000 project to obtain information about travel passing through the MAG region or travel entering the MAG region. This survey information will update the 13 year old external travel portion of the MAG Regional Transportation model. The study will provide information about travel at the edges of our current model study area. Half of this survey is being paid by Maricopa County as a joint undertaking. On December 20, 1998, a Request for Proposals was advertised. Two proposals were received. These proposals were from the Parsons Transportation Group (PTG) and ATD Northwest. On February 9, 1999, a consultant evaluation group reviewed the proposals and interviewed the two firms and recommended selecting PTG. MAG is recommending that PTG conduct the study for an amount not to exceed \$150,000. The Management Committee concurred with this recommendation. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*10. Recommendations to the Arizona Department of Transportation for the FTA Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program

On March 1, 1999, the MAG FTA Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Ad Hoc Committee ranked applications for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funding. FTA provides these funds to the Arizona Department of Transportation for capital assistance to agencies and public bodies that provide transportation services for people who are elderly and for people who have a disability. This year, 20 applications for capital assistance awards were received and considered by the Committee. The ranking provided by MAG is considered by ADOT in determining which applicants are to be awarded. The Management Committee concurred with the recommendation of the MAG committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

9. For information, discussion and approval to select the consultant firm Parsons Transportation Group to provide MAG with an external travel study for an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

10. For information, discussion and approval to forward the priority listing of applicants for FTA Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program to the Arizona Department of Transportation.

AIR QUALITY ITEMS

*11A. Consultation on Conformity Assessment for Proposed Amendments to the MAG 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program

On February 23, 1999, the MAG Transportation Review Committee (TRC) recommended that 18 projects be added to the 1999 MAG federally funded program, including the necessary amendment of the MAG 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). On March 10, 1999, the list was supplemented with one additional exempt project identified in a memorandum provided to the Management Committee. All of the projects are considered minor for conformity purposes. Seven projects are being advanced to 1999 as an administrative adjustment to the TIP. Costs for two existing projects have increased, which also requires an administrative adjustment. The remaining ten projects are minor additions. Comments on the conformity assessment are due by March 24, 1999.

MAG has reviewed the proposed projects for compliance with the federal conformity rule (40 CFR Parts 51 and 93) and has found that the proposed projects may be categorized as exempt, for which conformity determinations are not required, or not regionally significant, for which emissions modeling is not required. The current conformity finding of the TIP and the associated Long Range Transportation Plan Summary was made jointly by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration in a letter dated October 20, 1998 and would be unchanged by the proposed minor TIP Amendment.

Copies of the conformity assessment were distributed for consultation purposes to the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Arizona Department of Transportation, Regional Public Transportation Authority, Maricopa County Environmental Services Department, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other interested parties including members of the public. No comments were received. Please refer to the enclosed material.

11A. For information, discussion and consultation.

*11B. Consultation on Conformity Assessment for an Administrative Adjustment to the MAG 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program

The Regional Public Transportation Authority has requested that MAG make an administrative adjustment to the MAG 1999-2003 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 25 transit projects. Nine of the projects are accelerations to FY 1999. Ten projects are being revised. Six projects are being deferred and will be addressed in the upcoming TIP. The proposed projects are considered to require only a minor administrative adjustment to the TIP. Comments on the conformity assessment are due by March 24, 1999.

MAG has reviewed the proposed projects for compliance with the federal conformity rule (40 CFR Parts 51 and 93) and has found that the projects in question may be categorized as exempt, for which conformity determinations are not required, or not regionally significant, for which emission modeling is not required. The current conformity approval of the TIP and the associated Long Range Transportation Plan would be unchanged by the proposed minor administrative adjustment to the TIP. This conformity assessment is being transmitted for consultation purposes to the agencies and other interested parties. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*11C. Consultation on Potentially Regionally Significant Projects of the MAG 2000-2004 Transportation Improvement Program

Federal and State conformity regulations require Metropolitan Planning Organizations such as MAG to consult with State and local air quality and transportation agencies, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding which transportation projects will be considered "regionally significant" for the purposes of regional emissions analysis. Regionally significant projects are subject to conformity requirements. It is requested that comments regarding the list be reported to MAG by March 24, 1999. Please refer to the enclosed material.

11B. For information, discussion and consultation.

11C. For information, discussion and consultation.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

VALLEY VISION 2025 UPDATE

12. Valley Vision 2025 Update

An update on the activities of the Valley Vision 2025 Committee will be provided to the members of the Management Committee.

12. For information and discussion.

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS

13. Federal Fiscal Year 1999 MAG Federal Funds Preliminary Closeout / Amendment to the FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program and to the FY 1999 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

The federal funds available to the MAG region under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) have increased from an average of \$40 million per year to \$55 million. Regional Council action has increased the funds that are committed to the regional freeway system from an average of \$28 million per year to \$33.6 million. As a result, approximately \$16 million are likely to be available and are currently unprogrammed in the region for the current year, FY 1999. In order to program the additional funds available for the FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), it is necessary to carry out a preliminary closeout of the current federal fiscal year. There have been three requests to carry projects forward to FY 2000 and one requested deletion. It is important to note that the Obligation Authority (OA) to spend the FY 1999 funds must be committed by September 30, 1999 and the projects for the funds must have completed federal procedures. On March 10, 1999, the Management Committee unanimously recommended approval of the recommendations made by the TRC in February 1999, including adjustments recommended by staff. The estimate of funds available includes \$1 million in redistributed OA not yet received by MAG. Redistributed OA is provided towards the end of the fiscal year after funding is made available from other states. In addition, funds could become available due to projects not being able to be obligated this year in the MAG programming process. These funds, if available would be allocated in the final closeout process. Several of the recommended projects

13. For information, discussion and approval of the following additions to FY 1999:

- 1) Accelerate the design of programmed bicycle projects, \$217,833 (CMAQ);
- 2) Accelerate the MAG telecommunications project, \$90,000 (CMAQ)**;
- 3) Accelerate Maricopa County Peoria Ave bridge pedestrian project, \$59,570 (CMAQ);
- 4) Accelerate Maricopa County upgrade AzTech data server, \$471,500 (CMAQ);
- 5) Accelerate Maricopa County dust stabilization project, \$377,200 (CMAQ);
- 6) Accelerate design of Phoenix Parking Management System, \$430,000 (CMAQ)*;
- 7) Purchase 18 new standard buses, \$5,431,680 (CMAQ)*;
- 8) Implement new Ozone Campaign, \$300,000 (CMAQ)**;
- 9) Preliminary design for regional rail development, \$2,600,000 (CMAQ)*;
- 10) Four new MAG telecommunications projects, \$575,000 (CMAQ/STP)**;
- 11) Construct Tempe Downtown Parking Management System, \$3,206,200 (CMAQ)*;
- 12) Install new Tempe pedestrian lighting upgrade, \$707,250 (CMAQ)*;
- 13) Construct Scottsdale intersection improvement, \$1,697,400 (CMAQ)*;
- 14) Implement new Surprise dust stabilization project, \$285,900 (CMAQ)*;
- 15) MAG Travel Survey- \$500,000 (STP-MAG)**;
- 16) MAG Northwest Grand Avenue Study - \$100,000 (STP-MAG)**
- 17) Implement new MAG ITS Plan Update, \$250,000 (STP-MAG)**; and
- 18) Install new Chandler ITS System detectors, \$113,160 (CMAQ);
- 19) Accelerate the design of the Glendale ITS project, \$141,450 (CMAQ)*.

require a "minor" amendment to the FY 1999-2003 MAG TIP, in order to proceed, and others require an amendment to the FY 1999 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Annual Budget. Please refer to the enclosed material.

- * Authorize an amendment to the FY 1999-2003 MAG Transportation Improvement Program to include these projects in FY 1999

**Also amend the FY 1999 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget

14A. MAG Federal Funding: Draft FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

Each year, MAG submits a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for an air quality conformity analysis. The TIP includes federally funded transportation projects. Under TEA-21 federal formulas, MAG is expected to directly receive approximately \$55 million each year in federal funds, and these funds have been allocated to projects and placed in the draft TIP. In accordance with Regional Council action, up to \$33.6 million of MAG federal funds have been allocated to regional freeway system projects. In addition to MAG federal funds, ADOT provides MAG an estimate of State federal funds available to this region for programming. Due to the increase in MAG federal funds projected for all years of the TIP, the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) has recommended that only the additional funds in the first three years of the TIP should be programmed (FYs 2000, 2001 and 2002). For these years, approximately \$100 million in total is expected to be available for freeway projects and approximately \$45 million in uncommitted funds for other projects such as streets, transit, bicycle, pedestrian and telecommunication projects. New project requests were received totaling \$191 million. These projects were rated by MAG modal technical advisory committees and on February 23, 1999, the TRC reviewed the ratings and recommended a program of MAG Federally funded projects for inclusion in the Draft FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for a conformity analysis. The Management Committee concurred with the recommendation of the TRC with the adjustments recommended by the staff. Please refer to the enclosed material.

- 14A. For information, discussion and approval to include the MAG federally funded projects recommended by the Transportation Review Committee with the adjustments recommended by the staff in the Draft FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for a conformity analysis.

14B. Conformity Analysis of the Draft FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments require that the MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be in conformance with the applicable air quality plans. The TIP serves as a five year regional guide for the preservation, management and expansion of public transportation services,

- 14B. For information, discussion and approval to authorize a conformity analysis of the Draft FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program.

including highways, ridesharing, transit facilities and various congestion mitigation and air quality improvement projects. On February 23, 1999, the Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of the Draft FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for an air quality conformity analysis. The Management Committee concurred with the recommendation of the TRC with the adjustments recommended by the MAG staff. Please refer to the enclosed material.

14C. Conformity Analysis of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan Summary and 1999 Update

The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments require that transportation plans and programs be in conformance with applicable air quality plans. To comply with this requirement, it is necessary to conduct a conformity analysis on an update to the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Items addressed in this Update include: 1) priority changes in the ADOT Life Cycle Program and Long Range Plan for Freeways, 2) an updated Long Range Transit Plan, 3) extending the time horizon to 2019, and 4) incorporation of changes from the draft FY 2000-2004 Transportation Improvement Program. On February 23, 1999, the Transportation Review Committee recommended approval of the LRTP Summary and 1999 Update for an air quality conformity analysis. The Management Committee concurred with the recommendation of the TRC. Please refer to the enclosed material.

15. Resolution of Support for Transportation Financing Legislation

The plan to complete the acceleration of vital freeway and highway projects by the year 2007 includes transportation financing legislation. Currently two similar bills, HB 2572 and SB 1201 are active in the legislative process. Both bills allow for \$400 million in Board Funding Obligations (BFO's) for the State Infrastructure Bank. These short term (five year) notes would be repaid by federal funds available in later years. Of the \$400 million available on a statewide basis, \$200 million would be available to this region. The legislation would also provide greater flexibility for issuing short-term notes backed by federal funds and State Highway User Revenue Funds. These are referred to as Grant Anticipation Notes (GANS). In this region, it is estimated that approximately

14C. For information, discussion and approval of the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan Summary and 1999 Update for an air quality conformity analysis.

15. For information, discussion and support of the resolution for legislation to allow for Board Funding Obligations and greater flexibility for Grant Anticipation Notes.

\$200-\$250 million in GANS could be issued. The Management Committee discussed the proposed accelerations of our transportation systems and the critical need for this financing legislation. A resolution has been prepared supporting this legislation for consideration by the Regional Council. Please refer to the enclosed material.